

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference SWEECP/7/00	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 02726	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/07/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 16/07/1999
Applicant KELLY, Hugh-Peter Granville		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

/GB 00/ 02726

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

- line 3, add "(14)" after "float"
- line 5, add "(13)" after "generator"

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02726

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 F03B13/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F03B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 43 38 103 A (KLEMM WOLF) 11 May 1995 (1995-05-11) abstract column 2, line 15 -column 3, line 2; figures 1-4	1
A	US 4 539 485 A (NEUBENSWANDER VICTOR L) 3 September 1985 (1985-09-03) abstract; figures 1-2	1
A	US 3 546 473 A (RICH ALAN H) 8 December 1970 (1970-12-08)	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 4338103	A	11-05-1995	NONE	
US 4539485	A	03-09-1985	NONE	
US 3546473	A	08-12-1970	NONE	

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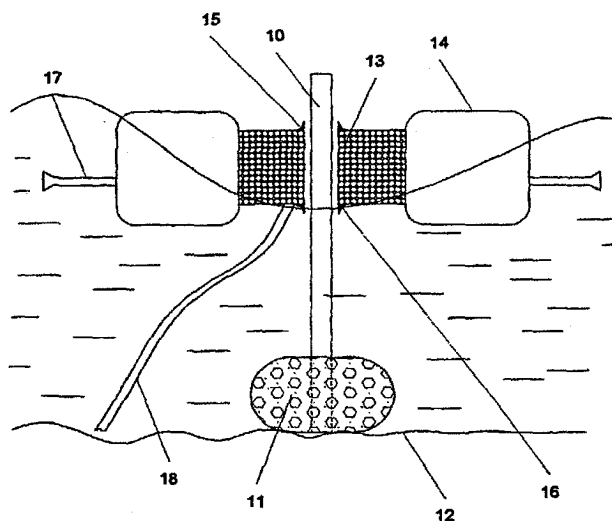
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(54) Title: SEA WAVE TO ELECTRICAL ENERGY CONVERSION PLANT



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for converting the motion of sea wave energy to electrical energy comprises one of more float driven linear generators, in which the inertial mass of the float (14) and any linkage means to the linear generator is minimised. In order to generate electrical power consistently upon both the upstroke and downstroke of the float, the moving part of the generator (13) is so sized that its gravitational weight acting upon the float, together with that of the float itself and any intermediate linkage means, is substantially equal to half the total buoyancy of the float.

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Sea Wave to Electrical Energy Conversion Plant

The present invention relates to the conversion of sea wave energy to
5 electricity.

A preferred method of obtaining electrical energy from the motion of waves
is the direct conversion of wave movement to electrical power using
electrical linear generators. In this arrangement, the reciprocating motion of
10 one or more floats is used to cause relative movement between the stator
and armature of such a generator. The direct generation of power is thereby
realised without the need for any form of intermediary mechanism, as would
be necessary for example when using rotary electrical generators.

An important factor concerning the generation of electricity from any source
15 is the efficiency of energy conversion. This is particularly important in the
case of capturing renewable energy from sea waves. Because of the high
cost of installing the power conversion plant, the operator must be
absolutely certain that the commercial returns will be adequate. It is not
possible simply to step up output by burning more fuel, as, obviously, the
20 behaviour of the fuel source (the sea) is outside the operator's control.
Accordingly, in the case of wave power generators using linear generators
as the energy conversion means, every possible watt of energy must be
extracted to ensure an adequate return. For this purpose, it is essential
both to ensure that the apparatus is arranged to generate power as
25 consistently as possible, and not to waste the potential energy available
from sea waves on any function subsidiary to the generation of power.

An example of such a subsidiary function affecting the performance of many designs of wave conversion plant using buoyancy chambers, is the expenditure of wave energy necessary to accelerate the mass itself of the buoyancy chamber and any associated apparatus not directly concerned with the conversion of power. For example, in the case of buoyant hinged raft type constructions, which are used to generate power by employing the motion of buoyant chambers to drive hydraulic pistons, the mass of the raft buoyancy chambers themselves is considerable. As a result of this, the upthrust resulting from their buoyancy must be expended both in accelerating them in order to keep up with the speed of ascendancy of the wave acting upon them, and for driving the hydraulic piston.

The disadvantage of this arrangement is readily apparent as the following example shows. Consider a lightweight polystyrene float. This will bob up and down responsively to the action of any wave. A huge concrete block, but trapping air so as to have the same overall buoyancy, cannot possibly do the same, allowing for the basic formula $p=ma$. The use of the potential energy provided by the wave to lift the polystyrene float is negligible, and its resulting kinetic energy as it rides up the wave is similarly negligible. It can therefore perform the single task of conveying the potential and kinetic energy imparted to it by the wave to the power conversion means, negligible energy being lost in acting upon the float itself. This however, clearly does not apply to the concrete block. Indeed, if it is too massive, it will not have risen before the wave has fallen away.

Also, concerning the effectiveness of using linear generators to convert wave power to electricity, it is important that electrical power is generated as consistently as possible, ie for a given wave, as evenly as possible both over the ascent portion of the wave, and the descent portion. Thus, for this purpose, the linear generator should experience as closely as possible the same upthrust as downthrust during the ascending and descending portions of a wave.

The ideal arrangement is one in which the effects of the above described subsidiary function are minimised, and at the same time, power is generated as consistently as possible.

According to the invention wave energy to electrical energy power

5 conversion apparatus comprises:

at least one linear generator having a stator and an armature which can be linearly driven relative to the stator to generate electrical energy and at least one float linked to the armature and which, in use, is immersed in the sea to be subject to the action of waves to drive the armature, the float(s),

10 armature and link thereby constituting a wave-driven mass;

wherein the weight of the wave-driven mass is substantially equal to half the upthrust provided by the water displaced by the float(s) when fully immersed in the water.

15 Other, optional, features of the invention, are defined in the sub-claims.

It should be noted that the invention contemplates more than one float per generator, and also where there may be more than one generator per float.

In either case, the mass constraints apply to the combination of the

20 float(s)/generator(s)/link(s) as a whole.

Thus, in this arrangement, were there to be no waves ie calm conditions were prevailing, on account of the fact that the combined weights equal half the buoyancy provided by the float were it to be fully submerged, the float would float half in / half out of the water (assuming it to be of a symmetrical

25 construction). In the presence of waves, during the rise of a wave, (and assuming the mmf resistance afforded by the generators to the motion of the float is such that it is completely submerged during this rising phase), an upwards thrust is imparted to the generator equal to substantially half the

weight of the water displaced by the float. Conversely, on the fall of the wave, and assuming for the same reason the float is hardly in contact with the water, a downwards thrust due to gravity is imparted to the generator equal to the combined weights of the assembly, again equal to substantially
5 the same value as was experienced on the upstroke.

Thus the linear generators experience substantially consistent upwards and downwards thrust during the passing of a wave, and thus consistent generation of power during both of these phases is achieved. In addition, because the mass of the floats and any intermediate linkage mechanism is
10 kept to a minimum, no energy is lost in accelerating any parasitic weight, other than the necessary mass of the moving components of the linear generators themselves, which might otherwise impede the following by the floats of the wave motion,.

In other words, all of the available force arising from the presence of the
15 float moving upon the waves, and thus the captured energy, is expended solely in the movement alone of the generators for doing useful work (setting aside the comparatively small amount of energy necessary to accelerate any intermediate linking means, and the lightweight float itself). At the same time, on account of the combined weights of the generator,
20 float(s) and linkage means, the motion of the float is optimised for the consistent generation of power.

This is an important distinction over prior art disclosures, including linear generator wave power devices, in which conscious consideration is not given to the generation of power as consistently as possible while at the
25 same time minimising energy loss through the use of associated structures as light as possible.

By way of introduction to an embodiment of the invention described below,

many other forms of wave energy devices cannot, by their very construction, make optimum use of the sea area available in which they operate. For example, in the case of the type of device in which buoyancy chambers are affixed to the far ends of swivelling arms for operating hydraulic pistons, the opposite ends of the arms being pivoted within a tower mounted on the sea bed containing hydraulic pistons and other components, a considerable sea area is monopolised by the arms and the tower itself. This sea area cannot therefore be used to do useful work. In an ideal world, and to obtain the maximum energy from a given area of the sea, as many floats as is possible should be operative within the waves, without of course disrupting their natural flow and thus effectiveness. It can be envisaged that a honeycomb arrangement of floats would provide an ideal solution.

Therefore, in an embodiment of the invention, the disposition, size and number of linear generators operated upon by the float / floats is such that the average horizontal area occupied by them does not exceed to any material extent the horizontal area occupied by the float(s) and any perimeter space surrounding the float for the effective operation and motion thereof. In this arrangement, the generators do not therefore occupy any space greater than that of their associated floats, and thus as many floats can be juxtaposed side by side, or in any other favourable arrangement, as is possible. Thus, for any given sized sea area, and thus size and cost of associated support structure for housing the linear generators, the maximum power may be generated and therefore the greatest financial return obtained for initial capital outlay.

In a feature of the invention, in order to enhance the captivation of wave energy, the flotation chambers are equipped with one or more paddles immersed in the sea, the planar axes of the paddles being arranged to be substantially parallel to the sea surface, the arrangement being such that the float and paddles act in combination to force movement of the armature

of the generator relative to its stator, the float by means of its buoyancy, and the paddle, or paddles, by means of their resistance to the motion of the seawater. Furthermore, the planar surfaces of the paddle against which the rising and falling water presses, may be so contoured as to provide as much
5 resistance as possible to the motion of the water, and therefore to receive the greatest counter thrust.

In a further feature of the invention, relating to the shape of the floats, their profile is optimised such as to provide the maximum possible buoyancy while offering minimal resistance to the slight elliptical horizontal movement
10 experienced by waves as they rise and fall. Thus minimal sideways forces are communicated to any support structure supporting the linear generators. This profile may be, for example, in the shape of a 'flying saucer'.

In one embodiment of this invention, the stator of a linear motor is partially immersed in the sea, and is held perpendicular to the sea bed by a weight
15 resting on the sea floor, or by other permanent means. The coaxial armature for traversing up and down the rod, and the generation of electricity, is directly fixed to, or is integral to, the flotation chamber -and paddles- which are also coaxial with the rod and free to travel therealong. (Note, for the purpose of clarifying the terminology used throughout this application, by
20 armature is meant that part of the linear generator which is caused to move by the float.)

The gravitational weight of the armature, along with that of the flotation chamber is so predetermined that in use substantially half of the flotation chamber would protrude above water during calm conditions. Thus, in wave
25 conditions, as waves ascend, its natural buoyancy raises the assembly to generate electricity, and as the waves fall, the weight of the assembly causes it likewise to fall, again generating electricity. To suit local conditions, in a feature of this embodiment of the invention, rather than using one

coaxial flotation chamber per motor, one large flotation chamber may be linked by articulated joints to several generators.

In an alternative arrangement relating to this embodiment of the invention, the linear generator, or generators, rather than being immersed in the sea, is / are instead mounted within a supporting cage above sea level. The generator may be protected from sea spray and the wind by suitable cowlings. In this arrangement, the flotation chamber and paddles -moving in response to the undulation of the sea waves- are connected by push rods, or other mechanical means, to the moving part of the housed generator (s).

Thus, the aggressive and inhospitable aspect of generating power from waves is confined solely to the field (ocean) replaceable flotation and paddle components. In an aspect of this form of arrangement, in order to cope with the very considerable variations in wave height arising from tidal movement affecting power plants located near the sea shore, means are provided within the cage to vary the height, relative to the sea bed, of the fixed part of the generator, in accordance with the mean height of the waves.

Referring now to an aspect of the invention concerned with how generation of electrical power is optimised for any given prevailing wave condition, control means are used to regulate the effective load impedance presented to the generators in accordance with the strength of the prevailing wave motion, the regulation being such as to ensure that the electromagnetic damping of the motion of the generators, as they generate electricity, is always such as to optimise the generation of power. By way of explanation, if the generator is either over or under damped, it will fail to respond in the optimal manner to movement of the waves, inasmuch that its frequency response will not enable sympathetic motion corresponding to that of the waves.

The invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Fig 1 is a schematic representation of a wave generator of the invention,

5 Figs 2a and b show the principal components of Fig 1, including vectors showing their gravitational weights,

Fig 3 shows an arrangement in which the generators are mounted above sea level in a cage,

10 Fig 4 shows a multiplicity of generators mounted above and within the confines of the horizontal surface area of a float and

Fig 5 shows typical electrical current waveforms generated by the wave movement, and control circuitry for optimising the use of the available wave power in any set of prevailing conditions.

15 Referring to Fig 1, wave energy to electrical energy conversion apparatus is depicted immersed in the sea. The apparatus comprises a float driven linear generator, the stator of which comprises a fixed rod 10, which houses a sequence of permanent magnets. The rod is embedded, at its lowest extremity, in a concrete block, 11. The block itself is anchored to the sea bed -shown generally at 12- to avoid drifting.

20

The armature of the generator 13 comprises a cylindrical housing in which is embedded a series of coils. Coaxially surrounding the armature, and affixed thereto, is an annular flotation chamber 14 The float is made of a construction which is as light as possible. This is in order to ensure that its weight is negligible in comparison with that of the armature of the generator, and therefore that the wave energy present is expended usefully on
25 generating electrical power rather than accelerating any undue mass of the

float itself, and/or restricting the assembly from following the wave motion. Located at the upper and lower surfaces of the armature are bearing blocks 15 and 16, for guiding the armature coaxially up and down the stator.

Annular paddles 17, are also affixed to the flotation chamber. The paddles

5 are contoured in order to offer as much resistance as possible to vertical movements of the sea water, see inset diagram at 17a. The size and/or length of the armature of the linear generator, and thus its weight, is so selected that its weight, combined with that of the float, is such as to counteract by half the total upthrust afforded by the volume of water that
10 would be displaced by the float were the float to be submerged. This is shown more clearly with reference to Figs 2a and b. The weight W1 of the linear generator armature 13, combined with the weight W2 of the float 14, ie $W1+W2$, is arranged to equal substantially half the upthrust U1 of water displaced by the float were it to be fully submerged.

15 The action of the apparatus is as follows. As a wave arrives, the natural buoyancy of the flotation chamber causes the whole assembly to rise. This is assisted by the pressure of the rising water acting against the paddles 17. Thus relative motion arises between the armature and stator of the linear generator and alternating current is generated within the coils of the
20 generator, the amplitude and frequency of which depend upon the vigour of the wave motion. The current is conducted to a shore station by a suitably armoured and flexible cable, 18. (Note, means, not shown, are present to prevent rotation of the assembly and therefore unwanted tensioning of the cable.)

25

Once the wave has reached its zenith, and begins to fall, the weight of the assembly causes the same also to fall. Power again is generated as the armature traverses the stator. Because the upthrust experienced by the generator is substantially the same as the weight of the assembly, electricity

30 is generated reasonably consistently both upon the rise and fall phases of

the wave. There is some natural phase lag between the ascending of the assembly relative to the waves, and its fall, due to the natural damping effect of the electromotive force generated. As will be hereinafter described in more detail, the load impedance presented to the generator, and the
5 overall weight of the moving assembly, is so selected as to optimise generation for any particular wave condition.

The apparatus of the invention thereby generates electrical energy consistently by the simple expedient of using an elongate linear motor having an armature of appropriate weight acting in reverse as a wave
10 powered linear generator. In addition, owing to the lightweight construction of the float itself, the available sea wave energy is expended in causing the relative motion of the generator armature to its stator, rather than being expended also on the mass of the float itself.

As an alternative to the immersing of the generator in the sea, and/or when
15 generation is to be effected at a sea depth where it is impractical to use the arrangements of Figs 1, an alternative method of mounting the generator may be employed with many practical advantages. Referring to Fig 3, rather than the generator being immersed in the sea, it is instead mounted within a cage 19, which in this illustration, itself rests on and is anchored to the sea
20 bed. (Alternatively, in the case of operation in deep waters, the cage may be supported on the sea surface by separate buoyancy chambers, and moored by anchor to the sea bed.) In this arrangement, the moving part of the generator is the armature 20. . (Note, for the purpose of clarifying the terminology used throughout this application, by armature is meant that part
25 of the linear generator which is caused to move by the float.) For the purpose of economy of construction, not all of the armature contains permanent magnets. On the contrary, the armature tube is only filled with magnets in the vertical active central portion thereof which, in normal use, traverses past the stator. The portions 20a and 20b which extend

respectively downwards to the float 21, and upwards through the guide rollers 22, are instead filled with a material of appropriate durability and structural strength. As can be seen from the figure, the stator 23, is mounted on a platform 24, within the cage. As the float and paddle combination 21 is
5 caused to ascend/descend by the undulation of the waves, so the armature is moved through the fixed stator to generate power. The armature is guided both above and below the stator by the rollers, 22. Both the float and the portions 20a and 20b of the armature rod 20, are made of material of as light weight as possible, commensurate with adequate structural strength, to
10 ensure that the available sea energy is expended on useful generation.

As is well known, there can be significant variations of the height of the sea close by the sea shore due to tidal motion. Thus, according to the time of day, the height of the peaks and troughs of any 'given size' wave may vary substantially relative to the sea bed. This must be accommodated in the
15 case of near shore location of any of the arrangements herein disclosed, by the use of a sufficiently long armature rod. However, filling an extended rod along its whole length with magnetic material, so that an 'active portion' is always presented to the stator, entails undue expense. To cope with this situation, the stator may be situated on the vertical movable platform 24.
20 The height of the platform may be adjusted by detection means, (not shown), to vary with the mean height of the waves, ie the average tidal level, by lead screw actuators, 25. The stator may be cooled by sea water pumped around a cooling jacket surrounding the same.

Referring to Fig 4, a balance is achieved between the length L of the linear
25 generators 13 and the total number N used for any given float, such that, while achieving the necessary mmf resistive force, the total horizontal area A1 occupied by them falls within the equivalent horizontal area A2 occupied by the float, as shown. By this means, floats can be closely juxtaposed in order to make optimum use of the sea area in which they are immersed, and

thus achieve the largest possible conversion of sea wave energy to electrical energy for a given area. This additionally provides the maximum return in terms of revenue for each kilowatt hour generated, for a given capital outlay on support structures.

- 5 For any given sea condition, which may vary from a light swell to a raging storm, it is important to ensure that the moving part of the generator faithfully follows the movement of the waves. For example, should the armature be feeding a short circuit, its motion would be excessively damped, and the float / paddle combination would be unable to follow the waves in an optimal fashion. Similarly, in a storm, were the generator to be feeding effectively an open circuit, the assembly may rise too easily in response to an approaching wave, and, under its own momentum, overshoot the crest thereof. Therefore means are necessary to ensure the load impedance is suitably adjusted for any given wave pattern. Referring to
- 10 Figure 5, AC currents generated within the coils of the generator, shown symbolically by way of example at 26 and 27, are first rectified by bridge rectifiers 28 and 29. The resulting DC currents are then fed into storage means 30. The storage means assists both in producing a steady DC level, and for ensuring a constant supply of energy whether a storm is present, or
- 20 an intervening calm. An inverter 31, is used, via a transformer 33, to supply alternating current to the electricity distribution system.. The effective impedance of the inverter is dynamically adjusted by detection means 32 which itself is responsive to the form of current the generators are attempting to generate, in order to optimise generation of power for any
- 25 prevailing wave condition. Thus the criteria outlined above for ensuring optimal matching of the generating capacity of the generator, with that of the motion of the waves, is permanently self-optimised. Other control circuitry means, (not shown), are used -as is customary in generating stations- to ensure the phase angle of the generated currents is correct for the addition
- 30 of power to the distribution system.

An additional feature of the invention, which indeed can be applied to all the arrangements described herein, is that the permanent magnets within the rod of the generator may, according to their position along the rod, be made of permanent magnetic materials of varying field strengths and therefore
5 cost, such that at the middle of the stator, where motion of the armature will be at its greatest, are located the strongest magnets, and at the extremities of the rod, weaker magnets. This arrangement can thereby also be used to match the predominant wave conditions, as well as economising in the cost of magnets used.

10 Numerous variations of the above will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

15

Claims:

- 1) Wave energy to electrical energy power conversion apparatus comprising:

at least one linear generator having a stator and an armature which can be linearly driven relative to the stator to generate electrical energy and at least one float linked to the armature and which, in use, is immersed in the sea to be subject to the action of waves to drive the armature, the float(s), armature and link thereby constituting a wave-driven mass;

wherein the weight of the wave-driven mass is substantially equal to half the upthrust provided by the water displaced by the float(s) when fully immersed in the water.
- 2) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the contribution to the weight of the wave driven mass of the float(s) and link(s) is negligible compared with that of the armature.
- 3) Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the float(s) and link(s) contribute negligible effective parasitic mass to the wave-driven mass.
- 4) Apparatus according to any one of claims 1-3 wherein the average horizontal area occupied by the linear generators does not exceed to any material extent the horizontal area occupied by the float(s) and any perimeter space surrounding the float(s) for the effective operation and motion thereof.
- 5) Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the or each float is equipped with one or more paddles, suitably contoured, to augment the force of the sea waves acting upon the float.

- 6) Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims in which the or each float is so contoured as to minimise any wave lateral forces acting upon it, while maximising its buoyancy.
- 7) Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the stator of the or each linear generator is maintained stationary and substantially perpendicular to the sea bed, and the armature thereof is affixed directly to the float for traversing the stator in accordance with the motion of the waves acting upon the float.
- 8) Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the stator of the or each linear generator is held in a cage above sea level, and the armature of the generator is caused to move relative thereto by linkage means to the float.
- 9) Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the link to the float(s) is a direct extension of the armature of the generator.
- 10) Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims in which control means is used to regulate the effective load impedance presented to the generator or generators in accordance with the strength of the prevailing wave motion acting upon the float(s), the regulation being such as to ensure that the electromagnetic damping of the motion of the generator, or generators as it or they generate electricity, is always such as to optimise the generation of power.

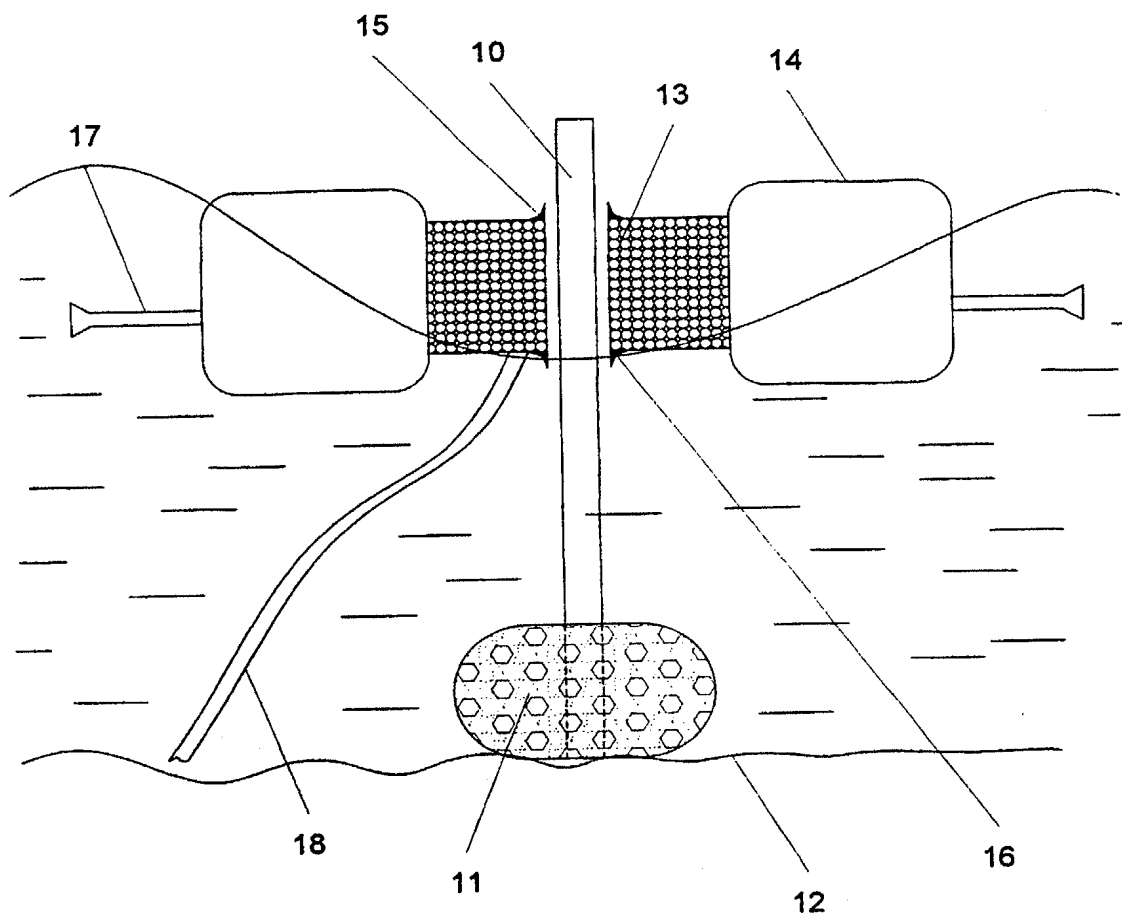
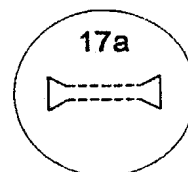


Figure 1



Sheet 1 of 5

Figure 2a

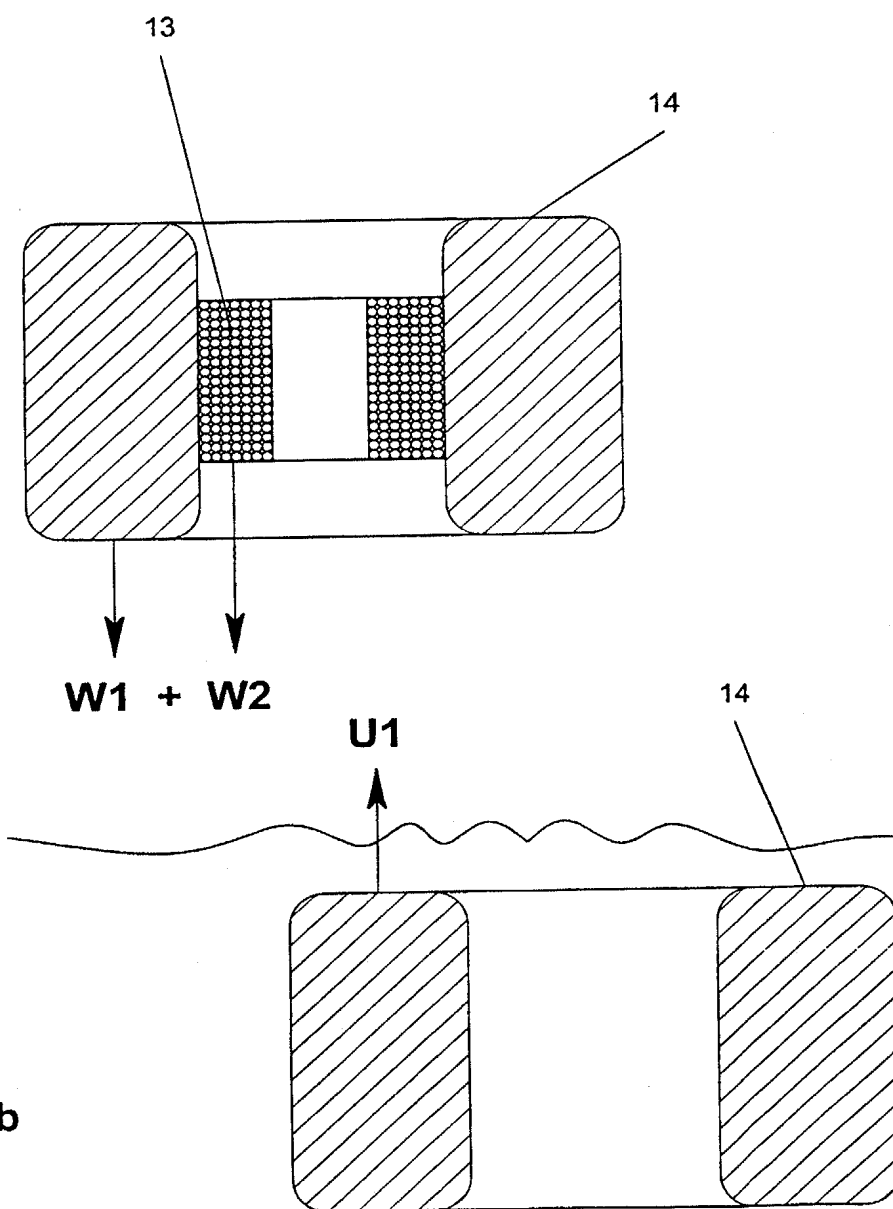


Figure 2b

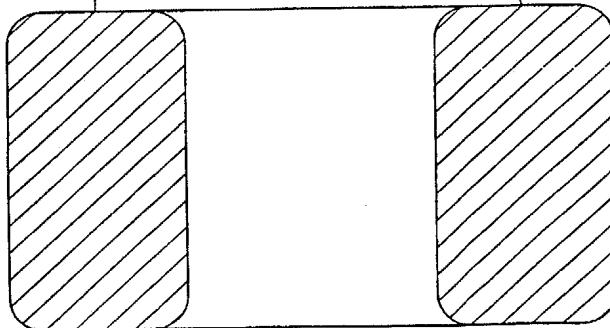
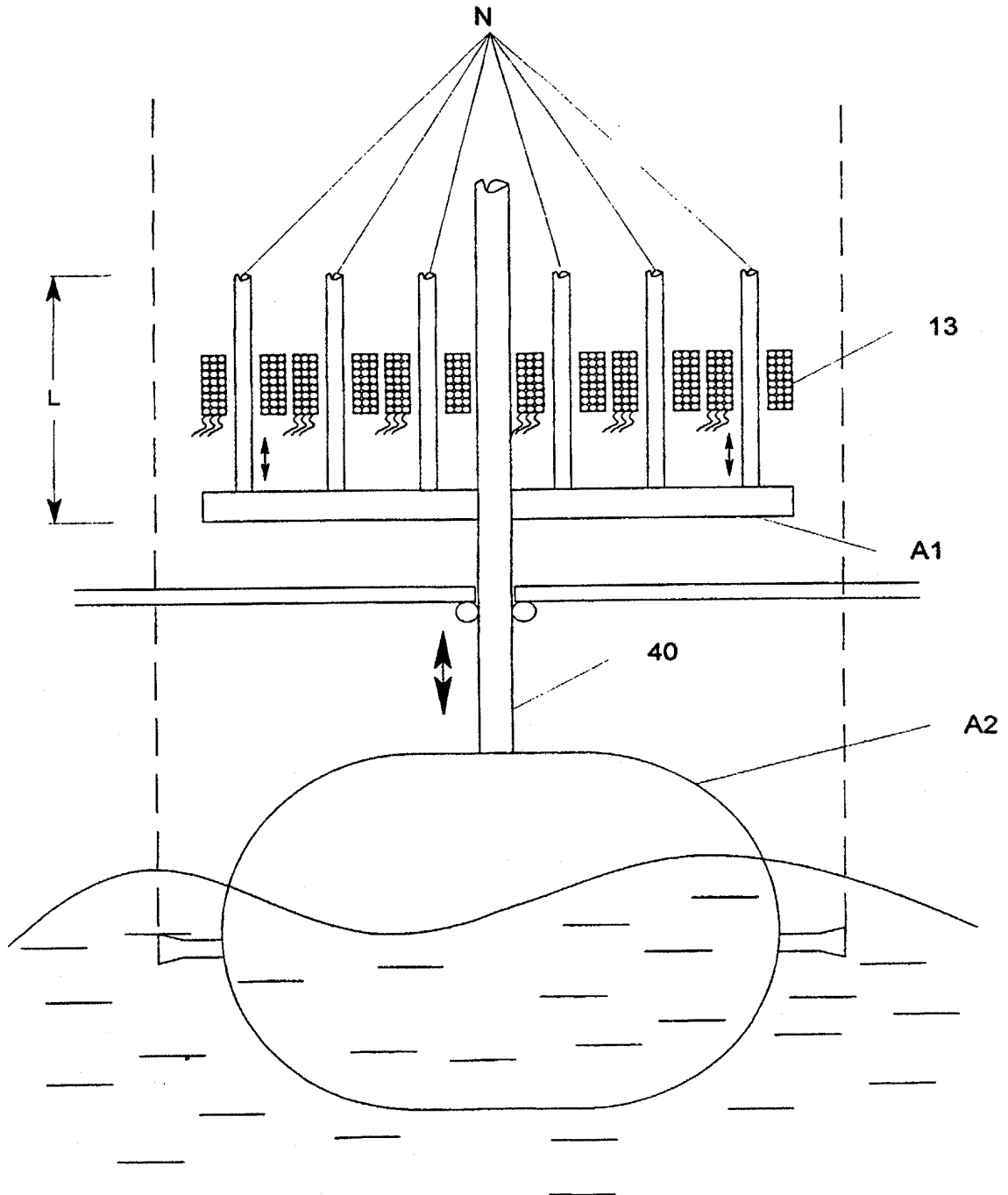
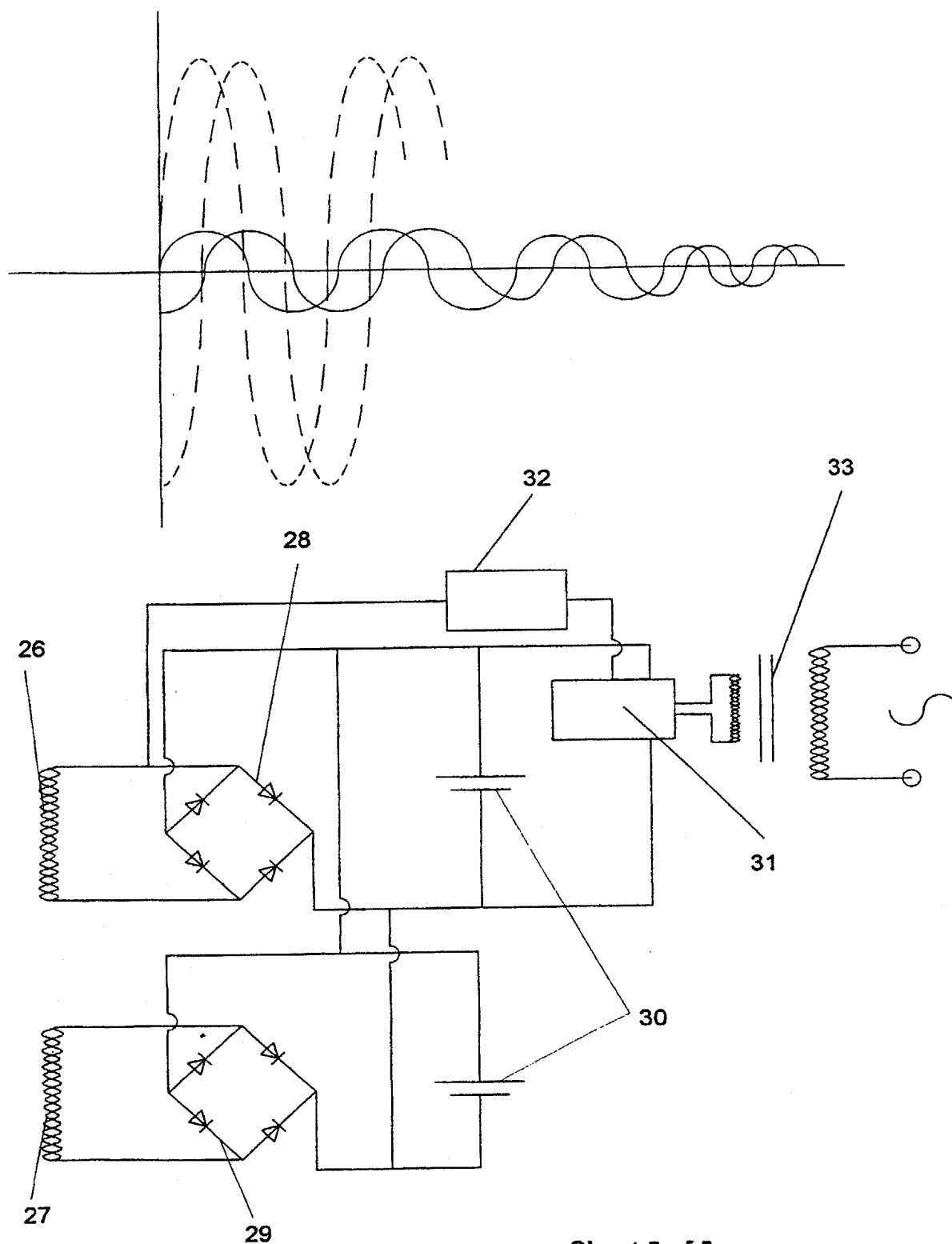


Figure 4

Sheet 4 of 5

Figure 5

Sheet 5 of 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte: Application No
PCT/00/02726

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 F03B13/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 F03B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 43 38 103 A (KLEMM WOLF) 11 May 1995 (1995-05-11) abstract column 2, line 15 -column 3, line 2; figures 1-4	1
A	US 4 539 485 A (NEUENSCHWANDER VICTOR L) 3 September 1985 (1985-09-03) abstract; figures 1-3	1
A	US 3 546 473 A (RICH ALAN H) 8 December 1970 (1970-12-08)	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/10/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Criado Jimenez, F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/02726

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 4338103	A	11-05-1995	NONE	
US 4539485	A	03-09-1985	NONE	
US 3546473	A	08-12-1970	NONE	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

KELLY, Hugh-Peter Granville
47 Crowstone Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea Essex SS0 8BG
GRANDE BRETAGNE

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	31.07.2001
-------------------------------------	------------

Applicant's or agent's file reference SWEECP/7/00	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
--	-------------------------------

International application No. PCT/GB00/02726	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 16/07/1999
---	--	--

Applicant KELLY, Hugh-Peter Granville
--

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/	Authorized officer
---------------------------------------	--------------------



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Goenechea Olmos, A

Tel. +49 89 2399-2664



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference SWEECP/7/00	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/02726	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 14/07/2000	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 16/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F03B13/18		
Applicant KELLY, Hugh-Peter Granville		

1.	This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"><div>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</div><div>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</div><div>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</div><div>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</div><div>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</div><div>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</div><div>VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</div><div>VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</div></div>
----	---

Date of submission of the demand 14/02/2001	Date of completion of this report 31.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"><div>European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465</div></div>	Authorized officer Pinna, S Telephone No. +49 89 2399 7912



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/02726

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-13 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02726

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-10
	No: Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 1-10
	No: Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-10
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

Re Item V

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 43 38 103 A (KLEMM WOLF) 11 May 1995 (1995-05-11)

D2: US-A-4 539 485 (NEUENSCHWANDER VICTOR L) 3 September 1985
(1985-09-03)

D3: US-A-3 546 473 (RICH ALAN H) 8 December 1970 (1970-12-08)

2. Each of the documents D1- D3 shows a

Wave energy to electrical energy power conversion apparatus comprising: at least one linear generator having a stator and an armature which can be linearly driven relative to the stator to generate electrical energy and at least one float linked to the armature and which, in use, is immersed in the sea to be subject to the action of waves to drive the armature, the float (s), armature and link thereby constituting a wave-driven mass;

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this prior art (D1-D3) in that:

the weight of the wave-driven mass is substantially equal to half the upthrust provided by the water displaced by the float (s) when fully immersed in the water.

The distinguishing feature results in providing the same maximal thrust in the downward and upward movements, allowing an energy production that is substantially the same in both the working directions (upwards and downwards) of the linear generator.

The technical problem to be solved by the invention was therefore, for a given wave, to generate electrical power as consistently as possible.

The proposed solution is not suggested by any of the prior art documents D1-D3 which are just specifying that the shape and size of the buoyant can be adapted to the particular conditions. These documents are not giving any indications about the weight of the wave-driven masses.

Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 is both new and inventive.

3. The subject matter of claims 2-10 is considered new and inventive, since they concern particular embodiments of the conversion plant defined in claim 1.

Re Item VII

4. Independent claim 1 is not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (documents D1 or D2 or D3) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
5. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in documents D1-D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.
6. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

Re Item VIII

7. Claim 6 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. The claim attempts to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved without listing the technical features necessary for achieving it.
8. The term "mmf" employed in the description (p 3, line 26; p 11, line 26) is not recognized in international practice, contrary to the requirements of Rule 10.1(d)PCT. Further, no indication is given on how to interpret it.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

To:

KELLY, Hugh-Peter Granville
47 Crowstone Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea Essex SS0 8BG
UNITED KINGDOM

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

13/10/2000

Applicant's or agent's file reference

SWEECP/7/00

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/GB 00/02726

International filing date
(day/month/year)

14/07/2000

Applicant

KELLY, Hugh-Peter Granville

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within **20 months** from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Augustinus Middeldorp

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference SWEECP/7/00	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 02726	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/07/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 16/07/1999
Applicant KELLY, Hugh-Peter Granville		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/GB 00/02726

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

- line 3, add "(14)" after "float"
- line 5, add "(13)" after "generator"

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02726

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 F03B13/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 F03B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 43 38 103 A (KLEMM WOLF) 11 May 1995 (1995-05-11) abstract column 2, line 15 -column 3, line 2; figures 1-4	1
A	US 4 539 485 A (NEUENSCHWANDER VICTOR L) 3 September 1985 (1985-09-03) abstract; figures 1-3	1
A	US 3 546 473 A (RICH ALAN H) 8 December 1970 (1970-12-08)	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/10/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Criado Jimenez, F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02726

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 4338103	A	11-05-1995	NONE	
US 4539485	A	03-09-1985	NONE	
US 3546473	A	08-12-1970	NONE	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 03 AUG 2001

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference SWEECP/7/00		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB00/02726	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 16/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F03B13/18		
Applicant KELLY, Hugh-Peter Granville		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14/02/2001	Date of completion of this report 31.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Pinna, S Telephone No. +49 89 2399 7912



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02726

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-13 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02726

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

Re Item V

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 43 38 103 A (KLEMM WOLF) 11 May 1995 (1995-05-11)

D2: US-A-4 539 485 (NEUENSCHWANDER VICTOR L) 3 September 1985
(1985-09-03)

D3: US-A-3 546 473 (RICH ALAN H) 8 December 1970 (1970-12-08)

2. Each of the documents D1- D3 shows a

Wave energy to electrical energy power conversion apparatus comprising: at least one linear generator having a stator and an armature which can be linearly driven relative to the stator to generate electrical energy and at least one float linked to the armature and which, in use, is immersed in the sea to be subject to the action of waves to drive the armature, the float (s), armature and link thereby constituting a wave-driven mass;

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this prior art (D1-D3) in that:

the weight of the wave-driven mass is substantially equal to half the upthrust provided by the water displaced by the float (s) when fully immersed in the water.

The distinguishing feature results in providing the same maximal thrust in the downward and upward movements, allowing an energy production that is substantially the same in both the working directions (upwards and downwards) of the linear generator.

The technical problem to be solved by the invention was therefore, for a given wave, to generate electrical power as consistently as possible.

The proposed solution is not suggested by any of the prior art documents D1-D3 which are just specifying that the shape and size of the buoyant can be adapted to the particular conditions. These documents are not giving any indications about the weight of the wave-driven masses.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02726

Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 is both new and inventive.

3. The subject matter of claims 2-10 is considered new and inventive, since they concern particular embodiments of the conversion plant defined in claim 1.

Re Item VII

4. Independent claim 1 is not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (documents D1 or D2 or D3) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
5. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in documents D1-D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.
6. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

Re Item VIII

7. Claim 6 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. The claim attempts to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved without listing the technical features necessary for achieving it.
8. The term "mmf" employed in the description (p 3, line 26; p 11, line 26) is not recognized in international practice, contrary to the requirements of Rule 10.1(d)PCT. Further, no indication is given on how to interpret it.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 22 March 2001 (22.03.01)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/02726	Applicant's or agent's file reference SWEECP/7/00
International filing date (day/month/year) 14 July 2000 (14.07.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 16 July 1999 (16.07.99)
Applicant KELLY, Hugh-Peter, Granville	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

14 February 2001 (14.02.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
 34, chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Olivia TEFY

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38